Cleeve House
Seend.

Monday [April 28 1924]

My Billy.
We have had a good many ups & downs since I wrote to you. For the moment she is better again. But last night her temperature suddenly went up to 103.6. & the doctors came & thought it practically certain they'd have to operate on her neck this morning. However she had a good night. her temp down again. & they now say they'll wait till tomorrow & give it another chance. She is better in other ways & only the temperature keeps going up & down. So I think they may think it better to operate & get it over. Of course it isn't serious I know. hardly an operation really & I hope it wouldn't be painful - she'd have chloroform for it - but it is very worrying here for there is no one one can talk to. I find for the first time almost what a blessing talk can be! If only I could tell you or some one who'd be sensible & understand what I feel I expect it would all seem much less horrible. But as it is I have to keep it to myself & try to reason myself into taking a sensible view - which I always

thought I was strong minded enough to be able to do before - but I find it makes all the difference (we do Balls table all very calmly are very kind & well-meaning but obviously it's impossible to say much to them. The only thing I think the best thing to do is to ask cheerfully such questions as are inevitable & then change the subject. Louie is the only person I can say anything to & I don't see her much except in Angelica's room -
I don't know now what I shall do but I'll let you know.

Could you or Nellie do something for me - which is to get 6 yards of pink muslin to make nightgowns for Angelica - She wants pink. Also please some pink cotton 2 reels & could you get me a thimble - I haven't one here. I expect we take the same size. It would be very kind of you - & please tell me what it costs. Also. I don't mind asking you, could you send Angelica any little toy or object to amuse her - Just opening a parcel is a great delight - If there is anything she could do in bed - necklace making or anything of the sort - it would be a great help to passing the time. I don't think you need regret your nephews & niece event yet Stopping. There seems to me to be an added excitement in the fact that Louie is round the corner & not in the house & I don't believe we ever wanted anyone in the house & nearer than Brighton or Cambridge. Love to

T. Parsons 3.2.73

Cleeve House
Seend.

Tuesday [April 29 1924]

My Billy.

Its angelic of you to stop to come to see us (perhaps you'd really love it?). But things really seem better today. Her temp. didn't go beyond 101 yesterday, compared with 103.6 the day before. This morning after a good night it is again normal & though it will probably go up in the course of the day still I hope it is on the downward trend. The doctor was quite pleased this morning & thought it now quite likely the acute inflammation would go down without an operation. There might, if the swelling continues & becomes chronic which sometimes happens, have to be a much slighter one later. But that is a question for the future. The great thing is that she does seem to be getting better without one now. I hope to come to London on Thursday for one or two nights as Julian goes back to school on Friday. I must get his clothes in order, also Quentin before he goes to Paris next week. I think Lonie could manage alone here for a day or two. & if Angelica is well enough to get out by next week I think I could come back &

leave her here. Once she can get into the garden she will be quite happy. At present I read to her hours a day. Luckily she loves stories & short stories generally & most of the books here are old volumes of Little Folks. Your toys were a great delight this morning. She has been playing with them quite happily all the morning. You were kind indeed to send them so soon. One gets so hard up after reading a long time. That any little objects are a great relief & help her to get through an hour or two.

I was very much amused by your letter this morning & especially by your extremely disjointed plans for dealing with Polly in future. Really I think you & I will soon be on very much the same terms with her. Shall I try though to get her to Bo in the Nation? I haven't begun it to her in the Nation? I haven't begun it to her yet though Duncan sent me a supply of papers. But I can't bring my wits to bear on anything in this house. at any rate not while I'm worried. I might, if sheer boredom sets in. I wish I could tell you of the tea party - did I? - when I sat between two clergymen. Mr Bush was one. "Is anything settled about Duro?" he asked the other who understood no more than I did what he meant. "No I understand not." I think it was about a Bishop. Could it have been Truro? Or does some other bishop sign himself Duro? But the talk was mostly about gardens & Leonard could have been quite at ease. Duncan goes back to London Sat tomorrow I believe & Clive today. So you will hear from them what I can do. But I may hope to see you soon. If not we must expect more reports.

Yours VB

(143) Charleston

ca 1926 ?
Aug/Sept

My Billy

I don't know when I'm
ever to see you. Of course
you may come whenever
you can - only I may
have to be London for a
night or two next week
to do various jobs before
setting out for France. I
will let you know if I
do - & you might let
me know if you're
incapacitated. However
I'll see you by hook or
by crook before we depart.
As for poor Tom I don't
quite see how I'm to
get over by then. &

I dont suppose Will want
to come here delighted thats
we should be to see you
& him — I will write
again when I know
what I am going to do.
I have no letters
from Aunt Annie or
Father. Ever that
priceless Posse
Your VB

Pansy sends her love.

(1926)

Charleston

Apr 15 or 20

My Billy.

See what humble papers I'm reduced to now-a-days I don't write. Besides it has a very good effect on your letter writing capacities to be kept waiting some time. Eventually you pull yourself together & think of the old one - you see I have read something - & don't you recognise my quotation - old 'un. perhaps I might say - anyhow you write me something more than the miserable third of a page I generally get. Also you have behaved disgracefully. I half thought of writing & blow you up. In the first place you have ruined our dining club. You talked of it at large & Roger & Brennan. Roger. the most indiscreet of men came & told Clive all about it. now I suppose Mary & all the world knows & so many feelings will be hurt if all the world is not asked & join that all selection will be gone. Well. you must begin all over again - you must do it with discretion. Don't tell anyone till the nucleus is decided on. But I wash my hands of it - I shall start one for painters only. Then I hear that Duncan & I are the chief sufferers in the Hogarth Press

scandal. All the blame is put on us. Which I shouldn't mind if any good were to come of it. But I see nothing but an endless series of interviews, highly diverting to the Woolves no doubt, who specialise in such things & are adepts at them. But their unfortunate victims only get more & more involved.
What do you imagine Angus & Mrs C. will be like when they have explained a few more times that they really adore Leonard & that Ruby? Duncan & I ever thought of anything else? Well. you see what crimes you have been guilty of. Now perhaps you won't be so much inclined to let those guns taps on me - However.
I intend to come to London on Thursday for a night & shall return here on Friday. Possibly I may see you -
You don't tell me whether you saw your friend Mr Hardy. Where did you see the Leafs? & do they really believe like leaves in a whirl wind? Clive thinks well of Kitty's performances. Roger ill.
I am leading a most domestic life here -
My sons are fascinating I find. They are now quite grown up & treat me very kindly -
They don't despise my brains. Julian told me the other day, they only think I work oddly. That is some comfort. Clive carries on with them in a wonderful style. They listen to his stories & roar with laughter. Angelica comes in to lunch now & is

quite self possessed & unabashed. Though she is rather like a small dog of another kind among all those great Danes.

I suppose you will be in a dither of excitement about Monk's House. Our new arrangements here can't be said to be altogether successful yet. We are smothered out daily. I hope it will soon be put right as I am always held responsible for anything done in the house.

The garden I have great hopes of this year. Perhaps it will even mean roses when it snows. I have a new armed boy now who works like a navvy. & is already producing rows of tiny beans & peas. Also I have a sweet pea hedge several inches high & dozens of tiny sunflowers sprouting. It is true we shall not be rich in dahlias owing to an unfortunate lapse of Duncan's - but I think we may have hollyhocks, poppies & sunflowers by the score & already irises are out & roses in bud.

I hear the blackest accounts of the Keynes. who seem to have sought Spain in vain for peace & quiet. They visited

Tilton on Saturday but I shoved my thumb
good news. Do you hear that you may have
the Frys as near neighbours at Rodmell?
that is about a mile off — miles indeed I
persuade them to go further afield.

This is my third nib. You see what my
difficulties are.

Possibly I may look in on you some
time on Thursday. after tea perhaps?
I might ring you up when I'm at 37
& find out what would suit you —

But I daresay I shall find you.
Leonard, Hughes & M.C. in the midst
of a conference & I may live in doubt
I should add the pleasures of it
I might not really make the situation
easier.

Give my love to them all

Yours VW

Hôtel Marini
Venice. May 7.

1926

My Billy. I am doubtful whether you will ever get this letter. I expect. But my hope of getting news from you rely to write - you are now in a is besieged country - your sister - has fled the last rat - you cannot conceive the commotion you cannot conceive the commotion - at least - I daresay you can - Anyhow when he arrived at Charleston was in when he arrived at Charleston was in which me that revolution was on us & that we should probably not be able to get away at all - I had not read the papers much of course - besides me cant really take any thing from the papers & had no idea what was going on - Then it seemed to me absurd to run the risk of being kept in England altogether - if we could get away - for I didnt much fancy staying up in at Charleston with Mary Rose - nor yet of living alone in Gordon Sq. indefinitely. So the next day I made up my mind to fly. The next day I never was no letter. It was rather a business as I had not really finished preparing

for the summer school - I had left all the garden things to be done - & I hadn't begun to consider my own private preparations. However I set off on the Monday evening & reached Newhaven an hour before the boat train & so got comfortably installed on the boat. It was after the London passengers came on that the horrors began. Every corner was crowded with sea-sick females. It was hot & stuffy. The stewardess never stopped talking. Millions of babies were going to France for some reason. The stewardess couldn't hear them & sent them & their wretched mothers to a lower region. From which it was said parts of hot air arose. The females around me discussed the strike & abused the miners until too sick to talk. I held out for an hour, thanks perhaps to Audrey Amp. Then it failed me & I too gave in. The babies yelled, women lay in the floor groaning - I cannot describe the horrors of the night - At last we reached Dieppe & staggered on deck. Not a porter to be seen. For an hour we waited unable to move from about 2 to 3 AM. Finally I managed to get a porter who was English & kindly disposed & who got off my luggage & put me in the train for Paris. which we reached 3 hours late. However I got a room at the Ludres & felt happy to be there. Angus turned up in the afternoon - I rather gin had to make up his mind for him & send him off. It was very lucky gin did I think - for him since he would have been too agitated to do any work in London - He had evidently been in despair at being in a hurry - but once safe in Paris he began to cheer up a little especially when we found we could easily change our tickets & come back on Wednesday instead of waiting till Saturday. We had a day in Paris. I bought some clothes & saw some pictures & then we had a very easy journey here. & found Duncan waiting on the platform

I am now waiting after we have been out to look for rooms. Duffy knows of one which turned out to be no longer in existence - then by great good luck we asked at a shop & were taken to what looks very nice rooms by a soldier - we are going to move to them tomorrow we shall each have a large room & our own. They look out to a little garden & one onto a canal they're very quiet & clean with a nice Italian woman. & very cheap only 12 lire each which is 2/- a night. So my address will be

Pensione Conte
S. Gregorio 234
Venezia.

Please write to me there if you can & tell me of the horrors of London. I was very grateful for the cheque which arrived before I left. I hope you aren't starving - I suppose you have to give up Red Well. But do send me news of the Fountain Head. One hears nothing from there except vague news about it ultimo here except vague news about it
Honorable Keynes. It is rather cold &

sometimes pours. but when the sun shines it is quite hot - & I think it may improve now. No doubt Venice is one of the loveliest places in the world & we like the coming & going of the ships I suppose & still miss the quiet & complete absence of traffic which is very surprising especially coming straight from Paris.

I rather think I have missed a lot of gossip by not seeing you before I left. What about the Keynes & the Provosty? When will it be decided? And the new Partridge menage - I was told that Cannan was upset, as it thought it might mean some extent at least a disruption of Ham Spray?? - How does Lytton take it. Also the Frys? Do you see them? How is Roger? Is Leonard finished of the Servile S. Income tax?

S. Jean we have met no other

English in Venice & rather hope that the strike may keep them away. But were tempted of the Academy who threatened to appear.

I suppose our show at the Leicester will be reviewed. But if it comes off will you see it & tell us what your opinions are - also whether anything sells? It should begin in the 13th. But perhaps nothing of the kind will happen or perhaps the strike will be over

Do you want me to buy you anything special in Italy or Paris? where everything seemed remarkably cheap.

Please write in any case

Yours VD

T. PARSONS 3-2-73